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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1375
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0251
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0282
RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE PRIORITY 0015
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0617
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0395
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0982
RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY 0084
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE PRIORITY 1153
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0599
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA PRIORITY 1315
RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB PRIORITY 0345
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0218
RUEHTH/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI PRIORITY 1823
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0302
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA PRIORITY 0353

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 000330

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/05/2018

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GR

SUBJECT: GAERC DEMARCHE: GREECE EXPECTS "NO DECISIONS"

REF: STATE 22352

Classified By: A/Political Counselor Jeff Hovenier for 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) A/Political Counselor delivered reftel points March 5 in advance of the March 10 - 11 GAERC meeting of EU Foreign Ministers to Antonia Katzoulou, the GAERC coordinator in the MFA AII Directorate for Common Foreign and Security Policy. After reviewing the points, Katzoulou told us March 6 that Greece believes "this GAERC will not take any decisions." She termed the U.S. points "helpful," adding that most were "well known positions." She said that the COREPER is still ongoing, and it may decide to defer discussion of Afghanistan and Pakistan to the April GAERC. Her only substantive comment was on the U.S. request related to Iranian sanctions.

She noted that the U.S. had asked that the EU adopt the new UN sanctions as quickly as possible, and that the EU sanctions go beyond the specific lists of individuals and entities designated in the new UNSCR and to make mandatory the voluntary provisions in the UNSCR. Katzoulou said she could not predict how the GAERC discussion would go, but said that Greece believes it best to assess implementation of the new UNSCR before deciding on any additional EU sanctions.

SPECKHARD